

News

Macomb County
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Contact: Phil Frame
Office of Public Affairs
586-469-7239
phil.frame@macombcountymi.gov

Water Quality Board to re-establish Blue Ribbon Commission on Lake St. Clair

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – Water quality in Macomb County may be getting a big boost as county and water quality officials look to re-establish and expand the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lake St. Clair.

The reconstituting of the panel was suggested by former Board of Commissioners Chairman John Hertel, who formed the first blue ribbon committee, and current board Chairman William Crouchman. Both visited the most recent meeting of the Water Quality Board.

First formed in 1997 to address severe water quality problems plaguing Lake St. Clair, the commission released about 100 recommendations to combat pollution and water quality problems, including the formation of the Water Quality Board, the creation of a team of anti-pollution investigators and the assigning of a special prosecutor to handle environmental cases.

“We’ve come a long way, but we’re not at the finish line yet,” said Doug Martz, chairman of the Macomb Water Quality Board. “Since the last report was issued 10 years ago, there have been many new faces on local boards and commissions. We need to re-form the panel to educate those newcomers and to plan out our priorities for the future.”

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According to Martz, the reconstituted panel will be expanded to include representatives from St. Clair, Oakland and Wayne counties and will address regional and local water quality issues.

“This would be a great opportunity to examine what has been done since the first report and where we should go in the future,” Martz said. “We can look at what worked and what didn’t and then we can try to fill those gaps on both a local and regional scope.”

Martz said the Water Quality Board will submit a proposal to reconstitute the panel for county board approval.

About Macomb County

Macomb County is an enriching community in Southeastern Michigan that has one of the state’s fastest rates of growth. Its 841,000 residents make it Michigan’s third-largest county, with direct access to Lake St. Clair and Anchor Bay, and a host of cultural and entertainment options. Its highly skilled workforce and investment in new and expanding businesses make it open to enterprise. Active civic leadership translates into balanced budgets and Michigan’s second-lowest tax rate. An increasingly diverse population and high quality of life make Macomb County accessible to all.

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